

## SECTION 7 - PROCEDURES FOR REPORTING COMMUNICABLE DISEASES.

**I. GENERAL.** DHCS is legally responsible for reporting certain infectious diseases to the State of Virginia Health department and to the office of the Surgeon General. Reporting at DHCS is accomplished through the Preventive Medicine Service. Prompt reporting will allow investigation when warranted and initiation of control measures in the hospital and community to stop transmission.

**II. SPECIFIC.** Reporting Hospital Admissions of Communicable Diseases:

A. In the event that a patient is admitted with suspected or known communicable disease, the physician responsible for admission or the nurse in charge of the admission will notify the HICO. The HICO will verify the diagnosis and the patient's status and initiate the staff notification. For questions concerning isolation precautions in the hospital, notify the HICO for assistance. To report a suspected case, leave the pertinent information on the Infection Control voicemail at (703) 805-0044. For assistance after business hours, page the HICO at 800-759-8888 Pin# 1243312.

B. A contact list of all employees, including pre-hospital care-providers (if known) with significant exposure to the infected patient will be forwarded to the Occupational Health physician to determine risk, necessary testing, appropriate followup, possible work restrictions, and treatment required. A written record is initiated on all employees that are evaluated and that are prescribed or receive treatment.

C. The Preventive Medicine Officer or his/her designee will be notified to initiate community contact follow-up and reporting to public health authorities and the Office of the Surgeon General.

D. If a patient is transported by health care personnel not eligible for treatment in the DHCS and is later found to have a communicable disease, the health care personnel will be advised by Preventive Medicine Service of the need to see their private physician as soon as possible.

E. If the index case is an employee, a list of patient exposed to the employee will be made and the attending physicians notified by the HICO. If the patients have been discharged, community follow-up will be initiated by the Preventive Medicine Service.

F. Those diseases suspected of being linked to blood transfusions (including but not limited to: Hepatitis B or Hepatitis C, CMV, HIV, and acute liver failure within six months of transfusion) shall be reported by the HICO to the Chairman of the Tissue and Transfusion Committee.

G. In addition to the specified diseases which require reporting (section 9), reportable outbreaks (clusters of diseases of public health significance that are related to one another and exceed the number normally expected) must also be reported.

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Examples of reportable diseases include the following:

Hepatitis outbreaks	Occupationally related illnesses
Fevers of unknown origin	Food or water borne outbreaks
Nosocomial infections	Case clusters of aseptic meningitis
Deaths due to acute infections	
Deaths due to parasitic disease	
Acute respiratory disease outbreaks including viral exanthema	

H. Information required for reporting is diagnosis, date of onset, name of the patient, age, address, ward if hospitalized and attending physician. Reports may be made telephonically to Preventive Medicine Service at 805-0936 or via Email. Mark Emails confidential.